

Government has promulgated on 5th June, 2000 the Solvent, Raffinate and Slop (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of Use in Automobiles) Order 2000 and the Naptha (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of Use in Automobiles) Order, 2000 under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Further, the oil marketing companies carry out regular/surprise checks of retail outlets, to prevent various malpractices including adulteration. In addition, special drives are launched by the oil companies both on their own and also under direction of Government from time to time to check malpractices. Further, to prevent adulteration various steps like blue dyeing of kerosene (Public Distribution System), furfural doping filter paper test, checking of retail outlets by mobile laboratories, etc. are undertaken by the oil companies.

The necessary action is taken against the erring dealers as per the dealership agreement of the oil marketing companies which provides termination of dealership if the quality of the products is tampered with.

Demand for Enhancement of Kerosene Quota by Kerala

1620. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJIAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the State Government of Kerala has been demanding for the enhancement of the quota of allotment of kerosene to the State from the present 32348 KL to at least 40,000 KL for a long time; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Government has increased the annual allocation of

kerosene for the year 2000-2001 to the State of Kerala to 3,97,257 KL against 388170 KL for the year 1999-2000

Bids for shipping LNG to India

1621. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Petronet LNG has invited bids for shipping LNG to India;

(b) if so, the details of the quantity and duration of this offer;

(c) whether Indian shipping companies will have any role in this venture; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) has invited offers for shipment of 7.5 million tonnes per annum (MMTPA) of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from Qatar to its LNG regasification terminals at Dahej (Gujarat) and Kochi (Kerala) for a period of 25 years.

(c) The offers invited by PLL for transportation of LNG provide that the bidder will be required to associate an Indian Shipping Company to be the Member of the Shipping Consortium.

(d) Does not arise.

MNCs for Technological tie up with ONGC

1622. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that multinational oil companies have offered to have technological tie up with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited to reduce its oil and gas exploration cost and also higher crude oil yield;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and